Pearl of Great Price

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Mtt. 13:45-46 The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a man that is a merchantman seeking goodly pearls: and having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

INTRO. The disappointment of the Dodge Radio Broadcast. Dodge Cp. tried to get the best of its kind, but its kind, to many of us at least, did'nt seem to be worth the large cost of the program.

A lot of money time, and energy wasted on ordinary and inferior things.

Lives thrown away because the low and mean and selfish were chosen.

Noble professions disgraced because some of their professors use them for ignoble purposes and selfish reasons.

What might have been great-souled personalities beshriveled and calloused because the opportunity to choose the best and make the most of opportunity was thrown away.

Some Bible examples of this.

Judas Iscariot gave up the incomparable glory of living with the Master of all Masters for the price of 30 pieces of silver.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage.

"Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present evil world".

"Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God".

BUT THE GOAL OF TRUE XN LIVING IS A QUEST FOR THE BEST THERE IS. The objective of ~~the~~ Xn endeavor is the K of H. Read text.

I. The true Xn goes after the big things of life.

The big things of life belong to the spirit and character. The really good things are not outside but inside the man. Editorial in last issue ot Vac. Reporter, entitled, "Where Science Fails". "Science can do little to solve the problems that trouble man the most. His spiritual problems far outweigh the material".

We find the true pearls in the region of the soul. The big thing is not wealth and luxury but a righ character, a beautiful personality, a glowing spirit. Not a big mansion with its accumulated art treasures, but an intelligent appreciation. Not a big library but a steady

serene studiousness. Not a large fortune but a large vision.

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report. Seek ye first the K.of G. and his righteousness" Such are the pearls of life.

II. The Xn quest is not only for the big things but for the biggest and best of all.

1. The merchantman not only sought goodly pearls, he looked for the biggest and best pearl of all.

We have account of some costly pearls.

The King of Persia paid 600,000 livres for one.

Cleapatra had one worth $375,000, which she dissolved in her drink, then dramk to the health of Marc Anthony.

Georgibus of Callais bot a pearl in India and took it for sale to Phillip IV ofSpain. "Have you ventured to put all your furtune into such a little object?", asked the king of Spain. "I knew there was in the world the King of Spain to buy it of me," replied the merchant. Of curse such faith resulted in a ready sale.

2. There are gradations of value even among good things. Knowledge is a good thing, but wisdom is better, that fine judgment and delicate intuition, that moral and spiritual discernment which gives to the soul superior discrimination.

Acquaintance is a good thing, friendship is better love is best of all.

To love those who love us is a good thing. to love our neighbors is a better thing; to love our enemies is the greatest love of all.

The respect of others is a good thing; self-respect is better; and still better is the possession of a conscience that gives us the approval of God.

Such is the quest of the true Xn. He is not satisfied until he has found the best there is.

3. The best for the Xn is Christ Himself.

X like radium. 10 oe 15 yrs ago no man would have believed the statement that a single atom existed that had power succisient to run a clock for 100 yrs. But now no informed person will deny it, since we have learned so much about radium.

Jesus Chrsit is the radium of Spiritual life. He make the blind to see, the lame to walk, the sinful soul to stand forth in newness of life. And in the presence of

spiritual power wise men do not scoll, they worship.

Christ meets every need. The bridge in Austria which has 12 niches, each one with a figure of X that is different from the others. One is X the Carpenter, another is X the Physician, another is that of the Shepherd, etc. Christ adapts himself to the needs of every man. His lov knows no limit. There is no end to his resources.

III. A word as to the method and manner of the Xn's quest.

1. A Xn seeking the K.of G. is like unto a merchantman. Such pearls are not found by the loafers and the rolling stones of life. Only the earnest careful searc by one who knows what he is after finds such pearls.

The sad part of us Xns is that the majority of us are not like the merchantman when it comes to our Xn living. And yet, this is the Master's demand. We must be businesslike in our search of the Pearl of great price.

We must have his earnestness of purpose and zeal of quest.

We must have his breadth of outlook, his eye for new markets, his knowledge of sources of supply. His vision.

We must have his ability and patience to deal with the details of the business. He lets nothing escape him. He is a finished expert in his line. We Xns must also be finished experts, knowing how to handle aright the Word of God, the means of grace, the powers divine. Lowly duties and commonplace courtesies must be attended to.

We must have the method and order of the merchantman. He does not run his business in any haphazard way. He does not loiter or lounge thru the affairs of his business, like so many of us Xns do with the affairs of the King's business. Look at our Bible study and our praying! Look at our giving and our serving? How careless we often are in our quest for the great pearl of life! The Lord did not allow his life to be frivoled away in indefinite purpose and uncontrolled desire.

We must have the merchant's power of decision. He knows just the right moment to act, and when that moment is at hand he acts promptly, decisively and courageously. He does not hesitate to risk all in order to get thepearl of great price.